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Celebrity Buzz

Manson in the past for Wood
pg 22

Nearly 25% text on way to work: Study

MOBILITY Commuters are becoming increasingly dependent on mobile technology like BlackBerrys and IPhones to keep up with work on their way to and from the office.

But that need to stay connected is coming at the expense of our safety with many people texting behind the wheel, according to a new Angus Reid study.

The Commuting And Staying Connected omnibus found that 23 per cent of Canadians surveyed said they need to have access to text messaging, phone and e-mail while commuting.

Nearly one quarter said they text en route to the office to make better use of time, while 8 per cent said they feel they're letting down their employer if they don't answer work-related phone calls or e-mails in the car.

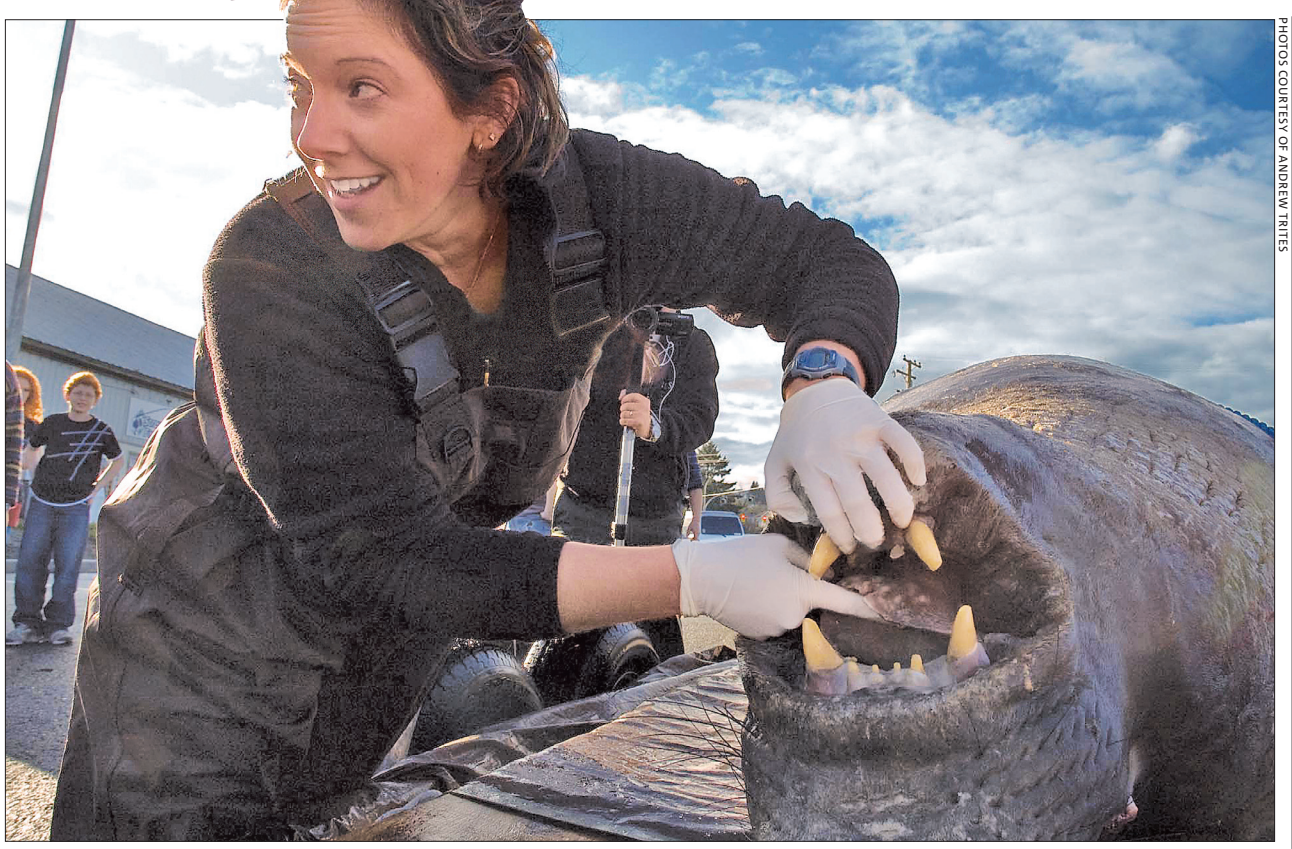
Vanessa Powell, 22, from Vancouver, said she texts while driving. "But it's not that bad," she said. "I can multi-task. Although I guess it is quite dangerous."

Call Dreyer, 30, said she only texts at red lights, but added that she knows it's dangerous.

"Commuters are beginning to consider in-car connectivity a basic need," said Tony Cassetta, CEO of IMS, which designs safety products for vehicles. "These attitudes combined with increasing pressures to stay connected are not likely to disappear." KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER

Provincial bans

- Cellphone use while driving is banned in Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec and Nova Scotia. Ontario is expected to enact a similar ban soon.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANDREW TRITES

Lisa Spaven from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Pacific Biological Station), looks into the mouth of a dead elephant seal found in Departure Bay near Nanaimo. This seal is one of the largest ever found at roughly 4.1 metres and more than 2,000 kilograms (4,400 pounds).

Seal likely killed by ship

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
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A giant northern elephant seal found in Nanaimo's Departure Bay likely died in a collision with a large boat, a marine mammal expert said yesterday.

The animal appeared to be in good health with a thick layer of blubber but several of its bones are broken, said Andrew Trites, director of the marine mammal research unit at the University of B.C. "Something big and fast moving hit the animal — probably a ship."

The seal's carcass was discovered last Monday by a Nanaimo resident who called a provincial hotline for stranded marine animals.

"Nobody knew what it was until it was pulled from the water," Trites said. "It's a pretty rare find. I've never seen an elephant seal in the Georgia Straight."

A truck was turned down as an option for transporting the seal to Vancouver because at more than 2,000 kilograms, the animal was heavier than the vehicle. A boat trailer was used instead and it later served as the autopsy table.

Sea monsters?

- Male elephant seals have large noses that flop down. They are believed to be the origin of some early West Coast sea-monster stories.

Trites said the elephant seal population is making a comeback — no thanks to the Smithsonian Institution — and it's possible that more of them will swim up the Georgia Straight in between Vancouver Island and the Mainland.

"In the late 1800s these animals were hunted to near extinction," Trites said. "Then in 1890, a group from the Smithsonian found nine elephant seals on Guadalupe Island. They shot seven of them because they saw it as a last chance to get them in the museum."

There are now as many as 150,000 elephant seals and sightings are becoming more common. Trites said a False Creek ferry operator contacted him to say he thought he saw an elephant seal surfacing and milling around underneath the Burrard Bridge.

"I'll need a photograph to confirm it," he added.

The seal's carcass was transported on a boat trailer.

B.C. man gets 6 more years for Thai sex assault

BANGKOK A former teacher from Maple Ridge who was captured in Thailand after an international manhunt has been sentenced to an additional six years in jail for sexually assaulting a young boy.

Christopher Paul Neil, 32, was already serving three years in a Thai prison after being convicted in May to sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy.

Christopher Paul Neil

Bangkok's Central Criminal Court announced his second guilty conviction yesterday. The boy involved in the second trial said Neil paid him between $15 and $30 to perform oral sex in 2003, which Neil denied.

Neil was arrested in Thailand in 2007 after Interpol unscrambled digitally altered photos, in which Neil's face was obscured by a swirl, allegedly showing him abusing boys. METRO VANCOUVER

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Local pg 3
B.C. surplus short of mark

Education pg 18
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B.C. Lung Association offers $22,500 in quit-smoking prizes
People who quit smoking in January 2009 could win prizes totalling $22,500, courtesy of the B.C. Lung Association's Quit Now and Win contest. The competition uses a buddy system and can be accessed via *quitnow.ca*. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Brush off that snowboard

Whistler Blackcomb is scheduled to open Thursday, but the dusting of snow on Cypress, Seymour and Grouse is still 35 to 50 centimetres shy of what the local hills need to open. NEWS1130.COM

Couple drive for change with fat-fuelled tour

TRIP Since starting their North American road trip, Cloe Whittaker and Tyson Jerry have stopped at a lot of fast-food restaurants.

But the pair, who left Victoria on Oct. 1, aren't breaking for snacks — they're refuelling their van.

The two young environmentalists are driving across each province, territory and state in the continent in a Mitsubishi Delica powered by vegetable oil.

The couple, both in their 20s, get used oil for free from local restaurants and after 15,000 kilometres, they have only spent $100 on biodiesel.

"It's about more than fuel," Whittaker said after arriving in Toronto. "We want to convey the idea that people have a choice. We have this incredible technology (for the car), but really, change has to come from people's mentalities."

Next, the couple is driving to Montreal, then they're heading to the Maritimes, then to Florida for Christmas. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Watch MetroTube of the Day
Read Global Style by Kenya Hunt at metronews.ca/globalstyle

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Halle Berry poses with Eric Pollins, the Vancouver actor who plays the father of the groom in the local production of Tony n' Tina's Wedding. Berry attended a performance as a guest of Pollins'.

Actress Halle Berry plays along at Tony n' Tina's Wedding

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
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AUDIENCE Halle Berry stole the spotlight at Tony n' Tina's Wedding and the bride likely didn't mind at all.

The Hollywood megastar was in the audience last Saturday at Vancouver's longest running interactive comedy after accepting an invitation from the actor who plays the father of the groom.

Berry is in town filming Frankie and Alice, a psychological thriller about a young woman with multiple personality disorder.

Eric Pollins, the Vancouver actor who plays the father of the groom in Tony n' Tina's Wedding, also has a minor role in Frankie and Alice. He invited Berry and she accepted.

"It was a rare pleasure to host her, and particularly to be the entertainer's entertainment," Pollins said. "I will always treasure the memory."

During the interactive show, Pollins joked with Berry while in-character. She played along and even threw rice at the bride and groom.

"Halle was the most wonderful and gracious guest imaginable. The warmth, humanity and emotional generosity she shares, both on set and as a 'guest' at Tony n' Tina's wedding, are the very same qualities that make her an international star," Pollins said.

Comedy

- Tony n' Tina's Wedding, an interactive comedy that takes the format of a mock Italian wedding, is performed at the Hoarse Raven Theatre until the end of May.

B.C. surplus to drop by half

Revenues also expected to miss projections by $3B

British Columbia's projected budget surplus has dropped by more than half because of the slower U.S. economy and lower personal income-tax revenue, Finance Minister Colin Hansen said yesterday.

Hansen also warned it expects revenues over the next three years will be $3 billion less than projected, but vowed not to run a deficit during that time.

The $450-million surplus for the $37.7-billion 2008-09 budget contrasts with the $1-billion surplus that financial officials had projected in their last update in September. The fiscal year ends in March.

Provincial economists said B.C.'s natural resource-based economy was slowing, but it was too early to say if it would fall into recession. The weak U.S. housing market has slashed revenue from B.C. forest lands, and lower natural-gas prices have squeezed drilling royalties — although gas prices are still higher than projected when the budget was unveiled in February.

Hansen said the government would use spending cuts, not higher taxes, to make up for any revenue shortfall, but there was no plan to delay the increase in carbon taxes on gasoline and other fuels scheduled for next July. REUTERS

Income-tax cuts

- Premier Gordon Campbell, whose Liberal government faces an election in May, announced last month that because of the slowing economy it would speed up income-tax cuts that were scheduled for next year.

News in brief

COURT A Vancouver Police officer arrested for allegedly drinking and driving was formally charged yesterday. Peter Hodson, 30, was off-duty when he was arrested on Nov. 16. He'll make his first court appearance on Dec. 29.

PICKTON The father of one of Robert Pickton's victims said he doesn't want a memorial to Vancouver's missing women erected at Pickton's farm, cknw.com reports. Many family members of missing women want the site turned into a memorial park, but Rick Frey said it should be somewhere more uplifting. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Inspectors fail inspection

HMC Road Service — which services the Trans-Canada Highway in Golden and Revelstoke — can no longer perform its own inspections. The company failed an audit of its highway maintenance equipment after having already been cited twice by the Ministry of Highways. **NEWS1130.COM**

Security costs for 2010 Games climb

OVERRUN The cost of providing security for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver will be almost three times the initial estimate, in part due to planning mistakes by the Games organizing committee.

The total cost would be around $500 million, almost three times higher than the initial estimate of $175 million. An official announcement on the costs is expected in the next few weeks. **REUTERS**

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RAFE ARNOTT/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Beijing Olympic silver medallist Simon Whitfield gets workout help from 2010 mascot Miga at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver yesterday. Whitfield was joined by three-time Olympian Silken Laumann to promote healthy living at the B.C. Hospitality Conference.

News in brief

THEFT The West Vancouver Police Department is warning residents about thieves who targeted two homes, making off with the contents of their safes. On Nov. 15 thieves broke into a home and pried open the safe. In the Nov. 22 incident they stole the entire safe.

SUSPECT Police in Langley are looking for a purse-snatching suspect who pushed an elderly woman to the ground and robbed her outside a Safeway. The victim had minor cuts and bruises from her fall. The robber made off with $100 in cash and the victim's credit cards.

CHARGES A Surrey woman has been charged in connection with a five-year-old attempted murder case in New Westminster, news1130.com reports. April Dawn Rogers, 32, has been charged with confinement, stabbing and robbery. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Gender violence is of international concern

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Forty-eight years ago today, three sisters and political activists from the Dominican Republic were murdered at the behest of their country's dictator, Rafael Trujillo, whose rule they publicly opposed.

In Vancouver and around the world the Mirabel sisters, and all female victims of abuse, will be honoured during the International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women, which was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999.

We Can B.C., an alliance of B.C.-based organizations and people campaigning to end violence against women, is holding a day-long event in Vancouver.

"This is one of the biggest and most pervasive global problems we have and the root is gender inequality, (and it's) an international concern," said Lali Pawa, one of the event's organizers.

Today's event at Heritage Hall on Main Street includes speakers, workshops and an info fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Human rights

- We Can B.C. will be hosting a series of public events to raise awareness about violence against women until Dec. 10, which is International Human Rights Day.

Two nabbed in year-long murder case

ARREST Two men have been arrested in connection with a year-old murder in Surrey, the RCMP announced yesterday.

Joshua Steven Holl, 24, and Darryl Karl Cole, 41, were arrested in Coquitlam on Nov. 21, and have been charged with first degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the death of Michael Larson, 37.

They are expected to make their first court appearances today.

Larson was found dead Dec. 1, 2007, in his rural Surrey home where police also discovered a grow-op.

Police said Larson hadn't had any run-ins with the law, but added that Holl and Cole were known to them. **METRO VANCOUVER**

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Employment and Educational Access for Women
Thursday, Nov. 27, 5 p.m. – room 423

Culinary Arts
Friday, Nov. 28, 9:30 a.m. – room 305c

All sessions, unless otherwise noted, are offered at our **Downtown campus**, 200-block Dunsmuir at Hamilton (two blocks west of Stadium SkyTrain station).

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38116 2nd Ave.

Bank of Canada deputy governor resigns

Bank of Canada deputy governor Sheryl Kennedy will step down as of Dec. 1 to "pursue other interests," the central bank announced yesterday. The bank said it will launch a recruitment process shortly to fill her position. REUTERS

Canada

Canadian youth top U.S. in 'Net use

Fewer young Americans have Internet access than their peers in Canada, a survey of 13 countries around the world showed. Among 12- to 14 year olds, 100 per cent of British youth use the Internet, followed by Israel at 98 per cent, the Czech Republic and Macao at 96 per cent, Canada at 95 per cent and the U.S. at 88 per cent, according to the World Internet Report by the Center for the Digital Future. REUTERS

Hungary **Official welcome**

KAROLY ARVAI/REUTERS

Hungarian President Laszlo Solyom, right, welcomes Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean to the Presidential Palace in Budapest yesterday. Jean is on a five-day official visit to Hungary for trade relations.

Tories accused of big spending

The Conservative government should be "embarrassed" after a Torstar investigation showed that federal politicians and public servants are travelling at high-class prices on the taxpayers' dime, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation says.

"(Prime Minister Stephen Harper) and his cabinet should be embarrassed that it has been caught at the trough like everyone else they accused of being (when the Conservatives were in opposition)," federation spokesperson Kevin Gaudet said yesterday.

The investigation looked at about 60,000 travel records from four years, including the last two years of Paul Martin's Liberal government and the first two years of the Conservative government.

Both Liberals and Tories have been big spenders, but the analysis found most Tory ministers spent more than the Liberals they once accused of being lavish spenders. In a detailed comparison it was found Tory ministers outspent the Liberals in 10 out of 12 cases.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SHOPPING Canadians plan to spend 14 per cent less this Christmas shopping season, with the majority seeking deep discounts at the big retail chains, as consumer confidence slides to a 26-year low. A survey released yesterday by marketing research firm Maritz Research Canada showed that shoppers plan to spend an average of $571 on gifts, down 14 per cent from the average of $663 last year.

WAR Gen. Walt Natynczyk, Canada's chief of defence staff, praised Washington yesterday in its plans to deploy 20,000 more troops to Afghanistan. Natynczyk said the surge by U.S. forces is essential to hold ground and ensure security in the run-up to the Afghan election next fall.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Male bras a hot item
A Japanese online lingerie retailer is selling bras for cross-dressing men and they've quickly become one of its most popular items. Since launching two weeks ago on Rakuten, a major Japanese web shopping mall, the Wishroom shop has sold more than 300 men's bras for 2,800 yen ($36) each. REUTERS

World

Self-help groups work: Study

About five million Americans attend meetings of self-help groups like Alcoholics Anonymous for alcohol and drug abusers, and nearly half of them reported remaining clean, a federal study released yesterday showed. The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration examined the popularity of meetings like those run in many communities by AA and Narcotics Anonymous. REUTERS

Costly stimulus needed: Obama

President-elect's two-year plan could cost hundreds of billions of dollars

President-elect Barack Obama promised yesterday to jolt the faltering U.S. economy with a costly stimulus package next year and introduced the team that will help him navigate the global financial crisis.

Obama, who warned again that the economy would likely get worse before it got better, declined to put a price tag on the two-year stimulus proposal that other Democrats have estimated at hundreds of billions of dollars.

The scope of the economic crisis has widened in the 20 days since Obama's White House win. Auto companies warned they were short on cash, unemployment numbers rose and the government injected $20 billion into Citigroup.

"These extraordinary stresses on our financial system require extraordinary policy responses," Obama said, adding his administration would honour public commitments made by President George W. Bush's team to address this crisis.

White House appointments

Barack Obama confirmed his economic team at a news conference.

- Timothy Geithner, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, will be treasury secretary.
- Lawrence Summers, a former treasury secretary, will be director of the National Economic Council.
- Christina Romer, a University of California, Berkeley, economics professor, will head the Council of Economic Advisors.
- Melody Barnes, a former chief counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee, will head the Domestic Policy Council.

Separately, the president-elect indicated he had not decided whether to roll Bush's 2001 tax cuts for the wealthy early or allow them to expire at the end of 2010 as scheduled.

Obama said his team was already working on the details of a package to save or create 2.5 million jobs and urged the next Congress to act on it immediately in early January.

"We have to make sure that the stimulus is significant enough that it really gives a jolt to the economy," he said, describing its price only as costly. REUTERS

Somali pirates seize another ship

HIJACKING Somali pirates have hijacked a Yemen cargo ship in the Gulf of Aden, a regional maritime official said yesterday, the day after pirates who seized a Saudi supertanker cut their ransom demand to $15 million US.

Word of the latest attack at sea came 10 days after gunmen from Somalia seized a Saudi supertanker in the largest hijacking in maritime history. REUTERS

News in brief

BRAZIL Rescue workers rushed to help stricken residents in southern Brazil yesterday after landslides and floods caused by heavy rain killed at least 59 people. REUTERS

India Acrobats take flight

PARTH SANYAL/REUTERS

Chinese acrobats perform during an India-China cultural exchange program in the Indian city of Kolkata yesterday. The program was organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Chinese Embassy to strengthen the cultural bonds between the two countries.

Surprising results in cancer study

MAMMOGRAMS Researchers who tracked breast-cancer rates in Norwegian women proposed the controversial notion yesterday that some tumours found with mammograms might otherwise naturally disappear on their own if left undetected.

But leading cancer experts expressed doubt about the findings and urged women to continue to get regular mammograms, saying this screening technique unquestionably saves lives by finding breast cancer early on when it is most treatable.

Researchers compared invasive breast-cancer rates among nearly 120,000 women age 50 to 64 who had a mammogram every two years over a six-year period to those screened just once. The researchers said they expected to find no differences in breast cancer rates, but instead found 22 per cent more invasive breast tumours in the group who had mammograms every two years. REUTERS

News in brief

DISCRIMINATION California's gay-marriage ban could open the door to legal discrimination against unpopular groups if the state Supreme Court allows the voter-approved measure to stand, blacks, Latinos, Asians and other minorities said. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

No time for left or right

Harper giving up ideology for pragmatism

NationalReport

Lawrence Martin

The Conservatives won the election. But it's no time to be a conservative. Two overriding beliefs tend to propel conservatives. One is free market economics. The other is the military solution. Both are in disrepute.

On the economic side, all you see these days are headlines like "We're All Keynesians Now." Roosevelt-styled New Deals are the talk of the world. Deregulation run amok is blamed for the global crisis.

The Great Depression spurred a rise of liberalism on this continent that lasted two decades. Conservatives can only hope there is no repeat now.

Their recent record on war as well as economics is hardly auspicious. There is little or no progress in Afghanistan. In Iraq there's progress — but with almost 5,000 Americans dead, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis dead, the American treasury blown, and the country's reputation disparaged, the Republican Party has been pummelled.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper no longer supports the Iraq war and he plans to withdraw Canadian forces from Afghanistan by 2011.

It is the inflexible, ideological leader who digs in his dogmatic heels. On neither war nor the economy is our prime minister doing that.

(Harper) senses the times are tilting in his unpreferred direction and he is not about to get caught behind the curve.

At a conference on the weekend in Peru, he talked about how he has had to move with reluctance from being a deficit hawk to a Keynesian spender who will now run up deficits.

At the University of Alberta, he studied economic history and gained a knowledge of the depression-era blunders of R. B. Bennett here and Herbert Hoover in the United States.

Instead of being pragmatic, they clung to conservative old-time religion and insisted on balancing the books.

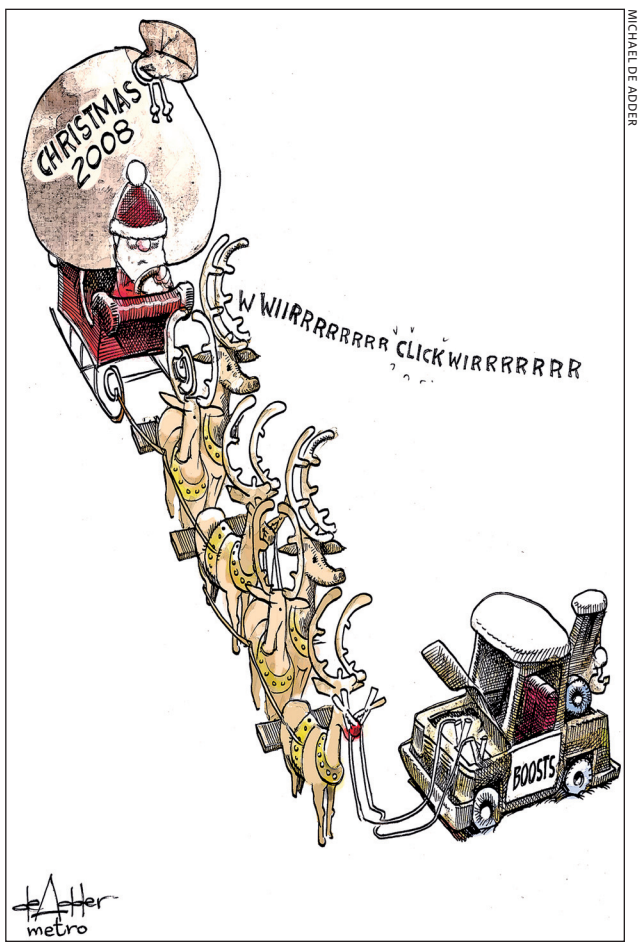
These are mistakes, Mr. Harper said, which cannot be repeated today.

He senses the times are tilting in his unpreferred direction and he is not about to get caught behind the curve.

The conservatism south of the border went too far just as liberalism did a couple decades earlier when welfare-state enthusiasts brought about stagflation and other blights. Ideology breeds excess. Go back further to find communism on one side, fascism on the other.

Maybe some day the lesson of history will be learned: That whether it be of the left or right, ideology is ruinous.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Economy should not deter philanthropy

Maria Antonakos

As we head into the holiday season, remember that compassion and generosity are blueprints for civil society.

Last year, there were approximately 82,000 registered charities in Canada and more than 1.8 million in the United States, according to the Canadian Revenue Agency and the American Institute of Philanthropy.

Meanwhile, mega gifts from Warren Buffett ($30 billion US) and Bill and Melinda Gates (approximately $20 billion since 1999) were said to be leading us into a second golden age of philanthropy, and many felt that there was never a more urgent time to engage philanthropic resources to try and solve issues affecting our world.

Yet only one year later, we are faced with tremendous financial upheaval that is seeing much of the wealth accumulated in the recent past jeopardized or lost.

As a philanthropy consultant, I work with both charities and philanthropists and have an inside view on how clients are navigating these times — charities as they campaign for donations, and philanthropists as they seek to fund the right projects.

Last week a philanthropist was voicing her concern that people were going to be less generous at a time when charities need more contributions than ever to support communities in need. She has committed to give as much as possible this year and she plans to encourage her peers to do the same.

Meanwhile, fourth year commerce students in my philanthropy course at McMaster's De Groote School of Business in Hamilton, Ont. are as passionate about philanthropy — and wisely distributing the $20,000 donated by Doris Buffett (Warren Buffett's sister), Michael Lee Chin, Bob Levis and Jeff Wheeler for them to give to a local charity — as they are about analyzing the markets.

So despite financial turmoil and insecurity, on a recent walk, I was overcome with gratitude for the freedoms and prosperity in our society.

Indeed, a peer through a global lens certainly underscores the privilege we experience in Canada, for example, to live without the threat of war tearing apart our families and communities.

This perspective shows me that there are hundreds of instances where I can lend a hand to others experiencing difficulties that far outweigh my own. Today, regardless of the financial uncertainty swirling around, my goal is to give as much as ever.

As we head into the holiday season, remember that compassion and generosity are blueprints for civil society, and philanthropic charitable works are the building blocks.

Don't let this month pass without taking a charitable action that makes you feel grateful and proud. In the spirit of true generosity, all gifts are big gifts.

Maria Antonakos is the founder of Opus Philanthropic Strategies (www.opusphilanthropy.com) where she helps people give and receive with care.

Letters

Watch where you get your puppy

I would like to warn readers not to put cruelty on their shopping lists this year. The holidays are a busy season for puppy sales and people need to know that when they purchase puppies over the Internet, through newspaper ads, or at pet stores, they are often unknowingly supporting a puppy mill.

Puppy mills are inhumane breeding facilities that produce puppies in large numbers. They are designed to maximize profits and commonly disregard the physical, social, and emotional health of the dogs.

The breeding dogs at puppy mills live their entire lives in cages, and the poor conditions cause puppies to have more physical and behavioral problems than dogs from good sources.

The best way to stop puppy mills is for consumers to stop supporting them. To find a puppy, visit your local animal shelter or find a reputable breeder and visit their premises to see how and where your puppy's mother is living.

DEILYN BERDICHEVSKAYA, TORONTO

Rick McGinnis' column brings back memories

Re: Long, Dark Winter without Mad Men (Oct. 28)

Rick McGinnis' words touched my heart and stirred a familiar haunted feeling. Mad Men depicts times that are very real to me — unwanted pregnancy, secrets and shame and then giving life to a beautiful baby destined for adoption.

Searching for my son was a compelling and healing process.

Sadly, my son does not welcome a relationship. I honour his choice. At the same time, I hold him lovingly and tenderly in my heart. His very being continues to shape and define my life.

MARGERET WOOD, EDMONTON

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Bonds down with battered equities in demand
Canadian bond prices ended down across the curve as news that the U.S. government had stepped in to prevent the collapse of Citigroup sparked intense demand for recently beaten-down equities, leaving little interest in buying government debt. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Crisis could slow China's growth

ECONOMY China's growth could slow to its weakest pace in almost two decades, the World Bank said yesterday, the latest prognosis for a global buckling, despite the efforts of policymakers.

What started more than a year ago as a meltdown in the U.S. mortgage market has engulfed the world, freezing credit and requiring the financial bailout of entire countries. REUTERS

In brief

EARNINGS Royal Bank of Canada warned yesterday that its fourth-quarter revenue would fall 15 per cent to $1.1 billion on trading losses, while TD Bank said it would sell $1.2 billion in common stock, just days after disclosing about $350 million in credit-trading losses in the quarter.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Retailers Desperate times, desperate measures

REUTERS/SHANNON STAPLETON

A free personalization promotion is seen inside a holiday-themed store in New York City yesterday. Facing a slew of bad economic news as the holiday shopping season approaches, small independent retailers and boutiques are adjusting strategies and inventories to lure customers away from the major chains.

Citi bailout keeps BCE buyout alive

With the clock ticking toward a Dec. 11 closing deadline, the $52-billion US buyout of BCE Inc. appeared to dodge yet another bullet this week after Washington moved to bail out Citigroup Inc., the deal's biggest financial backer.

Shares of BCE soared nearly 10 per cent, or $3.39, to $37.94 yesterday on the Toronto Stock Exchange after the U.S. government said a day earlier that it would shield Citigroup from hundreds of billions in losses from toxic assets by injecting $20 billion of capital into the bank.

Investors in the Canadian phone giant had become concerned about the deal's chances last week as the spectre of bankruptcy was raised at Citigroup.

Such an outcome could put in jeopardy the bank's commitment to funding the $42.75-per-share takeover of BCE by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

Citibank is estimated to be contributing between $11 billion and $13 billion of the deal's $32 billion in financing. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Swift action plan

- U.S. president-elect Barack Obama said he has high hopes for Congress to act quickly "so that our administration can hit the ground running. We cannot hesitate and we cannot delay," he told reporters. REUTERS

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winner with his photo *Midnight Tram to Humber.*

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Other Canadian finalists (top to bottom): ***Life Rushing By*** ~ Lydia Macintosh • ***Granville Island Market*** ~ Bounkham Sengsavanh • ***Soggy City*** ~ Steven Lungley • ***Toronto Breaks*** ~ Steve Tunzi

Thanks for helping choose the top 5 Canadian photos that will go on to the global finals. A global jury chaired by Mario Delogu and including Canada's own Paul Wearing will deliberate over the top 5 entries from all twenty countries in the competition, and will select one international winner by December 3rd.

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SmartCookies

Mortgage brokers represent you, the borrower, and not the lender.

Remember, this home loan is likely to be part of your life for years to come, so don't be afraid to ask tough questions and compare offers.

If you are considering, even months or years from now, purchasing real estate, then the first person you should be talking to is a mortgage broker. Simply put, mortgage brokers help you find the best rates on mortgage products available at all financial institutions.

What's more, they have the knowledge required to present a proposal for financing to a lender (bank) in the best way possible to successfully obtain your mortgage and deal on your behalf with all potential lenders. Mortgage brokers represent you and not the lender and they come at a price tag that even surprised us: Free, in most cases! Mortgage brokers basically are paid their commission from the institution you end up using as your lender.

When you begin the process of searching for property it is essential to know what you can afford. However, just because you have been approved for a specific amount does not mean you need to take that full amount. Be sure that the mortgage amount and the monthly payments fit into your long term financial plan.

Here are a few Smart Cookie tips for finding the right broker for you:

Referrals:

Having a referral from a friend, acquaintance or family member is great when trying to find a mortgage broker. Buying a property doesn't always happen overnight, so you could be in this relationship for some time and it's best to find a good fit.

Commissions:

Ask your mortgage broker on what basis they make their recommendations. Mortgage brokers are paid commissions to sell loans, so make sure you ask plenty of questions about the commissions they are paid.

Research:

Do your own research via the Internet and phone. Ask what deals mortgage brokers have to offer and if there are any conditions attached. Remember, this home loan is likely to be part of your life for years to come, so don't be afraid to ask tough questions and compare offers.

Stick With Your Gut:

Make sure you feel confident about the person who is organizing your mortgage. Go with your gut on this one — if something doesn't feel right, chances are it isn't.

E-mail questions or comments at *smartcookies@metronews.ca* and visit smartcookies.com for more financial tips.

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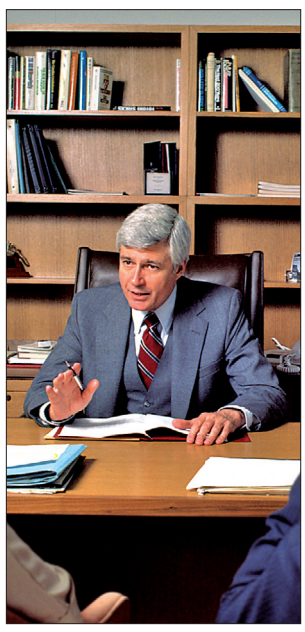
Need more about mortgages?
CIBC's website (cibc.com) offers virtually everything you need to know about mortgages, including an online application. NEWS CANADA

Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA



Consult with your real-estate lawyer to resolve on or before closing.

Try to save land taxes

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong
choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

Q Three weeks ago, my wife and I purchased our first home. We close two days before Christmas. Our down-payment is minimal and therefore has very little for closing cost. Every dollar will matter. Do we qualify for the Ontario Land transfer-tax rebate?

Cole and Jen, Ontario

A Congratulations! Very few accomplishments are as satisfying as owning your first home. Although real estate prices have declined, it continues to be a great investment over the long term and the next several months will have many more opportunities for first-time and non-first time buyers alike.

Land transfer taxes (LTT) can be a rude awakening for many purchasers in large Canadian cities, particularly unprepared, first time buyers. Land transfer taxes are assessed on transfer of property in Ontario and are required to be paid by the purchaser. LTT is based on the value of the property at rates between one and two per cent. On a home of $400,000, the LTT would be in excess of $4,000. Unfortunately, that is not the end of bad news. An additional equal amount of LTT for Toronto homes is expected. That's a whopping $8,000, just for Ontario and Toronto LTT. The following may help you:

- First-time buyers may qualify for an Ontario LTT rebate up to $2,000 on purchases of newly-constructed homes. Re-sales are disqualified.
- First time buyers may also qualify for a Toronto LTT rebate up to $3,725 purchases of re-sale or newly-constructed homes.
- Must be at least 18 years old (citizenship not required) and home must be owner-occupied no later than 9 months after closing.
- Purchasers (including spouse) must not have previously owned a home anywhere in the world.

You should check with your real estate lawyer to resolve before closing.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, provides professional accounting and taxation solutions: choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

Tough times call for tough measures for financial security

With today's unpredictable market conditions, it's more important than ever to review your personal financial situation in the event you are affected by an unfortunate circumstance such as a sudden job loss or a work related disability.

Here are some helpful hints:

Monitor your spending habits

Eliminate unnecessary expenses. Cutting back on simple things like buying coffee and lunches every day can add up to thousands of dollars saved per year.

Save for a rainy day

Put away a small amount of your pay cheque for emergency purchases. This way you won't have to rely on credit.

Make sure your debt is insured

Insure your credit card balances with insurance products that will make your minimum monthly payments if you were to become disabled or have a loss of employment. According to a 2008 RBC Insurance / Ipsos Reid survey, 82 per cent of Canadians have credit cards, but only 20 per cent of those have credit card insurance.

Pay off your credit cards with the highest interest rate first

This can save you hundreds of dollars a year. Or, transfer high interest credit card balances to a card with a lower rate. Speak to your credit card company about getting a lower interest rate card.

More information is available online at rbcinsurance.com/insurance-needs NEWS CANADA

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Home insurance

Don't forget renovations

- Canadians love to renovate their homes and will spend, on average, about 10 per cent more this year on their renovations, a steady increase year over year according to the RBC 2008 Renovation Study.
- A 2008 RBC Insurance/Ipsos Reid survey shows that 38 per cent of Canadians renovated their homes, but only 56 per cent of them updated their home insurance policy.
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Investing

Allan Small

The week's column looks at ways to invest for growth while keeping your principal safe. Visit metronews.ca

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Ruling paves the way for Bonds trial

A U.S. federal judge dismissed several charges against Barry Bonds but left intact most of the indictment alleging he lied to a grand jury about taking performance-enhancing drugs. The ruling yesterday paves the way for Bonds to go to trial in March. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Sign of the times

General Motors has ended its nine-year endorsement deal with Tiger Woods amidst the auto industry's worst economic climate in decades. The endorsement deal, believed to be worth at least $7 million US a year, was to expire at the end of 2009. Woods has endorsed GM products around the world and mainly has been seen in Buick commercials. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

NHL The St. Louis Blues acquired defenceman Carlo Colaiacovo and centre Alexander Steen from Toronto in exchange for right wing Lee Stempniak yesterday.

HOCKEY Hall-of-Famer Patrick Roy has another son in hot water with the QMJHL. Forward Frederick Roy of the Quebec Remparts was suspended 15 games yesterday for cross-checking an opponent in the head and for delivering a blow to the face of another player in an 8-2 loss to Montreal on Friday. Frederick's older brother, Jonathan, made national headlines in March after earning a seven-game suspension and a $500 fine. Roy is the head coach, general manager and part-owner of the Remparts.

NBA The Washington Wizards fired head coach Eddie Jordan yesterday and replaced him on an interim basis with Ed Tapscott. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Salo beats Wings in OT

NHL RESULT

Canucks 3 **Red Wings** 2 (OT)

THE SKINNY: Sami Salo's power-play goal propelled the Canucks to their second overtime win against the Wings this season. Daniel Sedin forced the extra session with a late goal in the third, just 70 seconds after Pavol Datsyuk had given the visitors the lead. Curtis Sanford stopped 32 shots for his third consecutive victory.

THE LUCKY CHARM: Salo's five-year-old son Oliver played in a short game with his teammates during the first intermission and was interviewed on the bench.

THE MILESTONE: Daniel Sedin's goal was his 400th career point, beating twin brother Henrik to the benchmark. He added point No. 401 with an assist on Salo's winner.

THE BOUT: Darcy Hordichuk and Darren McCarty were throwing wild haymakers during a first-period fight. Hordichuk got the decision.

THE RATING: Stanley Cup champs + big saves + late goals + overtime + home-team win = 5 out of 5 stars.

THE NEXT GAME: Hosting the Flames on Thursday.

REUTERS/KYLE STAFFORD

Henrik Sedin celebrates Sami Salo's game-winning overtime goal over Detroit last night.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Roberto Luongo will be sidelined at least a week.

Luongo week-to-week

Canucks goaltender Roberto Luongo's return status will be evaluated on a week-to-week basis as he recovers from a strained groin, the team said yesterday.

The decision was made after Luongo underwent an MRI and other medical tests following his injury on Saturday while making a save in the first period of Vancouver's victory in Pittsburgh.

Luongo's agent had earlier indicated to media outlets that the Canucks captain will be out of action for four to five weeks.

Rarely used backup Curtis Sanford assumes the duties as the No. 1 goalie and the Canucks have called up Cory Schneider, the team's top draft choice in 2004, from the American Hockey League's Manitoba Moose.

REUTERS/METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Knee keeps Toronto's O'Neal out of practice again
Jermaine O'Neal did not practice yesterday, and team doctors will determine if he can play tomorrow vs. Charlotte. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nash to the Knicks?

YorkReport

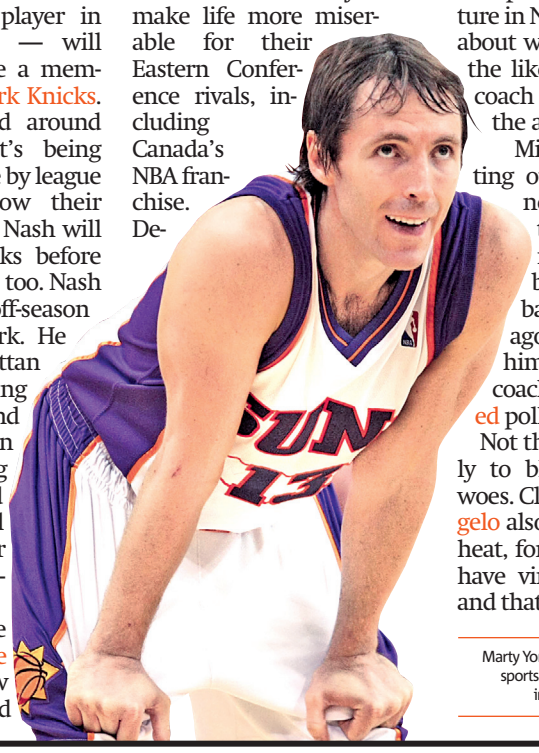
Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

B.C. native Steve Nash — the finest basketball player in Canadian history — will eventually become a member of the New York Knicks.

That's the word around the NBA, and it's being spread like wildfire by league sources who know their stuff. They predict Nash will be with the Knicks before 2010. Makes sense, too. Nash already has an off-season home in New York. He plays in a Manhattan soccer league during the off-season. And he has gone on record as saying New York would satisfy his cultural interests and foster his filmmaking desires.

There's also the fact that Mike D'Antoni is the new Knicks coach and used to be Nash's coach in Phoenix, where the point guard and the Suns excelled in a fast-paced system that is being introduced these days in New York. And, oh yes, the Knicks made two trades last week that cleared $27 million US in their salary cap.

• A Knicks team featuring Nash, of course, likely would make life more miserable for their Eastern Conference rivals, including Canada's NBA franchise. Despite starting one of the NBA's tallest frontlines in 6-foot-11 Jermaine O'Neal, 6-foot-10 Chris Bosh and 7-foot Andrea Bargnani, the Raptors have been playing subpar ball and languish near the bottom of their division with a 6-7 record. And some of the same folks who are whispering about Nash's future in New York are buzzing about what they perceive as the likely firing of Raptors coach Sam Mitchell before the all-star break. Indeed, Mitchell has been getting outsmarted by opponents too frequently this season and it's making NBA types believe they were bang-on a few years ago when they voted him the league's worst coach in a Sports Illustrated poll.



Not that Mitchell is entirely to blame for the Raps' woes. Club boss Bryan Colangelo also needs to take some heat, for a change. The Raps have virtually no depth — and that's his fault.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

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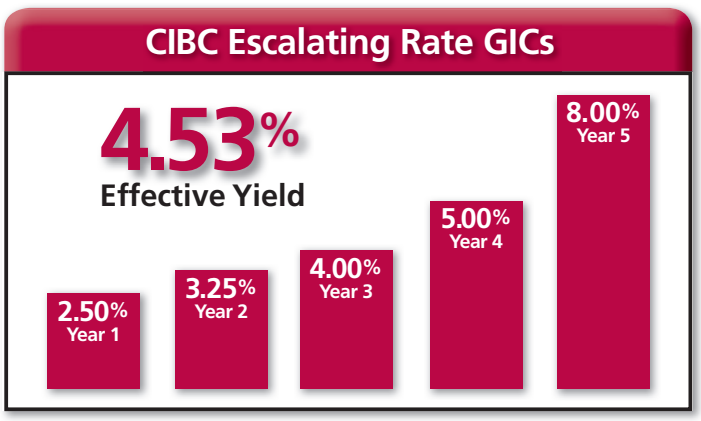

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SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Real-world learning on offer

The University of B.C.'s Continuing Studies Languages, Culture and Travel program gives students the chance to travel overseas to learn a new language.

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

There are a number of ways to learn a new language, such as listening to audio books or taking a class. Or, one could jet to central France and live like a local, brushing up on his or her français while attending wine tastings or mass at a cathedral.

This is what Michael Ashby did as part of the University of B.C.'s Continuing Studies Languages, Cultures and Travel program. For a few weeks spanning last August and September, the North Vancouver resident and a handful of other students lived in Tours, France, taking language classes with a University of B.C. instructor each morning, embarking on cultural excursions during the day and returning to their homestay families at night.

"The experience in Tours just underlines to me that if you ever want to speak another language, you've really got to get immersed in it," said Ashby. "It's the whole atmosphere of being in France and meeting the local people ... and (speaking to them) in French. They wouldn't speak English. If you got stuck for a word, you'd find a way around it."

Lang Sun, director of the Asia-Pacific programs, said that travelling to a destination and immersing oneself in the language or culture is one of the quickest and most effective ways to grasp it.

"In the classroom, we do use the immersion approach, but it's still a classroom," he said. "By being (on site), students pick up more."

Each trip costs roughly $3,000 before airfare and includes all registration and tuition fees, as well as accommodation and some other variables, such as food and activities. Students are challenged in their learning, Ashby and Sun agree, because they must use their new language skills in authentic, everyday settings, from buying toothpaste at the market to communicating with their homestay families, who often speak no English.

Sun says the groups — which usually consist of seven to 12 students — are sorted based on skill level, and as a result are highly personalized.

The program has been around for five years and is divided into two categories: Cultural immersion and language destination. In the former, students are not required to learn the language.

Next year's travel programs include Italy and France.

More online

- For more information, go to *languages.ubc.ca/travel*.

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Simon Fraser classes help working adults

ANDREA WOO
for Metro Vancouver

As a mother of three who works full time as a legal assistant, Fang Huang doesn't have a lot of spare time. But in an effort to improve her English and better educate her three sons — aged 10, eight and two — the Chinese immigrant went back to school.

Not surprisingly, traditional university classes didn't fit into her busy schedule, so Huang signed up for Simon Fraser University's new Nights or Weekends (NOW) program, created specifically for working adults.

Most classes are one day a week, in the evening or on the weekend and, depending on the number of credits assigned to the course, three or four hours a day. Courses are usually 15 weeks long, with 13 weeks of classes and a two-week examination period.

Students in the NOW program can earn a full bachelor of general studies degree or take either upper- or lower-division courses — which include communication, political science, sociology and anthropology — and use them toward another degree program.

"It's very, very good," said Huang, who chose Intro to Sociology to learn more about western cultures and values. "I can choose what I like. As mature students, we want what we want, not just to finish the program or graduate."

Wendy Adams, another mature student in the NOW program, said the hesitation she initially felt about re-entering the education system after a number of years quickly subsided.

"For some reason, I had it drilled into my brain that it was too hard, or that I wouldn't have enough academic qualifications to gain acceptance," she said. "But it was first-hand support and a very informative first e-mail from then-director Yvonne Tabin that got the ball rolling and ultimately changed my thinking."

Dr. Neil Mathur, current director of the program, said it was developed after researching and working with students, instructors and academic administrators.

"We recognize that working students are busy trying to balance work, family and school," he said, "so we created this program so that they can pursue their degree without sacrificing the other important parts of their lives."

Mathur said courses are constantly being added to the program as a direct response to student requests.

More online

- For more information, go to *sfu.ca/sfunow*.

Number of asthma cases inflated
Some 30 per cent of adult Canadians diagnosed with asthma do not actually have the disease, University of Ottawa research suggests. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Health

Have a helping of mighty capers

Having a steak or burger? Add a sprinkling of capers. An Italian study published in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry found that capers contain isothio-cyanates, compounds that are thought to help protect against cancer. Capers, the pickled buds of a Mediterranean flower, are especially good for people whose meals are rich in fats and red meats, say researchers from the University of Palermo. **BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE**

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

A recent article argued for the need of a "date local" movement to reverse the carbon impact caused by long-distance romance.

Dating for a cause

The J Spot

This time of year tends to bring out our charitable side. And these days, it seems, one can do anything to raise money for a good cause. Even date.

The Vancity Bachelor has vowed to donate $5,000 to a local charity in the name of the person who introduces him to his future wife. The Vancouver man, who wishes to remain publicly anonymous, is apparently a successful career man (he cites his devotion to his career as one of the reasons he is still single) who is ready to settle down and start a family.

He frowns upon nightclubs and dating services as ways to meet the love of his life and instead is willing to enter into an e-mail correspondence (*Vancitybachelor@gmail.com*) with any interested parties to determine if there is enough of a connection to start dating.

Donating to charity isn't the only way one can date conscientiously. A recent article at Slate.com argued for the need to create a "date local" movement to reverse the carbon print caused by long-distance romance.

Just as the local food movement encourages us to eat only what is produced within a 100-mile-radius of our homes, the article encouraged people to start thinking in terms of "sex miles" (the distance someone travels to hook up with you) and date sustainably by becoming a "locasexual."

If you must date long distance, you can at least do what a friend of mine does when she travels to Dallas to see a guy she met online.

When she books Air Canada, she pays $6.40 for the airline's carbon footprint offset option. When she gets a better deal through another airline, she goes to *zerofootprint.net* and calculates what her carbon footprint is for her trip and then purchases offsets at the site's ZeroFootprint carbon shop.

But why stop at dating? You can also make your sex life more environmentally friendly.

Toronto-based sex shop Come As You Are (*comeasyouare.com*) use manufacturing processes that have less negative environmental impact.

With a little conscious effort, dating and sex can feel good in a whole new way.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit *joseyvogels.com*.

Spreading tooth decay

Parents should be wary of bacteria in their mouths

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada

You may not realize it, but your mouth contains bacteria that can spread to your children and harm their teeth.

That is one of the messages in a new campaign recently launched by the Ontario Dental Association.

"Only nine per cent of the public realizes that tooth decay is an infectious illness," says Dr. Ian McConnachie, past-president of the Ontario Dental Association and a pediatric dentist in Nepean, Ont. "They don't realize it can spread from person to person or within the mouth."

Tooth decay is caused by bacteria. These germs don't exist in babies' mouths when they are born, but can be transmitted to them, "usually from mom," says McConnachie. For instance, before putting the soother in her baby's mouth, she licks it. Or she licks a spoon and then uses it to feed the baby. Once in the baby's mouth, the bacteria grow and eventually cause tooth decay.

"We are seeing tooth decay in children rising at a rapid rate," says McConnachie. Over the last 25 years, rates of tooth decay in North America had been declining, but in the last five to 10 years, they have started to creep back up, he says. In some regions, more than half of kids have cavities by the age of five.

A mother can transmit germs that could lead to tooth decay by licking a spoon and then using it to feed her baby.

To prevent tooth decay, children should begin seeing a dentist regularly before their first birthday, according to the ODA. Dental health programs provided by the government should target preschool kids, says McConnachie, instead of waiting until children already have tooth problems.

Tips for parents

There are some measures parents should take to avoid tooth decay in children:

- If your baby sleeps with a sippy cup, fill it only with water.
- Look at your child's teeth. Watch for lines, spots or changes in colour, which could be signs of decay.
- Change your child's toothbrush every one to three months or after an illness.
- Do not share spoons, cups, food, toothbrushes.
- Do not lick your baby's soother.
- Help your child brush his/her teeth. **CELIA MILNE/ FOR METRO CANADA**

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Twilight sequel in the works

Actor Rob Pattinson has reportedly confirmed there will be a sequel to vampire love story Twilight, and he will star in the epic. Producers want to capitalize on Twilight's success by turning Meyer's second book, New Moon, into a followup film. **IMDB.COM**

Entertainment

No Doubt tour

No Doubt (front woman Gwen Stefani, left) is reuniting for a tour in 2009 as the band puts the finishing touches on its first studio album in seven years.

BBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

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The woman in red

U.S. political shift has Ani DiFranco smiling

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

For Ani DiFranco — and as she describes it, much of New Orleans — it's been a Red Letter Year.

DiFranco, who's just released an album of that name and moved to the Big Easy, described neighbours congregating on streets and popping champagne bottles after the recent presidential election.

"There's this incredible feeling, people are so full of joy and hope … I tear up when I think about it," said DiFranco."

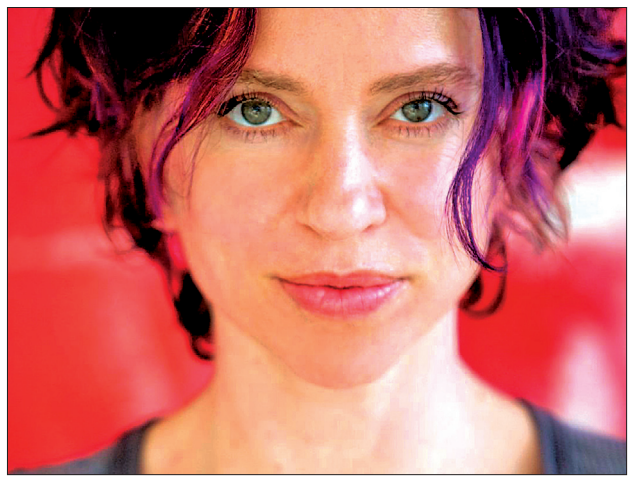
The political situation is just one reason the eclectic punk-folk artist is grinning. She's now a mother, with little Petah Lucia serving as a muse. Her partner and co-producer Mike Napolitano adds new layers to her poetic lyrics and rhythmic compositions, bringing in instruments like a vibraphone and marimba, and committing what DiFranco jokingly calls the "blasphemy of blasphemies" — muting the guitar on beat-heavy tracks like Smiling Under.

While DiFranco is no stranger to creative conflict — an esthetic reflected in her resolutely DIY ethos, her trademark slap-strum guitar and her willingness to self-reflexively tackle political issues in her lyrics — this year finds her a lot more chilled-out. From the mellow dedication to her daughter Present/Infant to the raucous, horn-heavy closer Red Letter Year Reprise, DiFranco sounds happy. Could be the gumbo: She described New Orleans as vibrantly alive, despite ongoing lackadaisical government response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

"A lot of people are rebuilding by pulling themselves up with their own bootstraps, and in a lot of areas of town — the most devastated areas — nothing has improved."

That said, DiFranco remains an optimistic activist, and not just politically. New distribution tools like the Internet help independent musicians, but accompany an explosion of touring bands that can no longer rely on record sales, leading to more competition for venue space. But the self-described tour warrior welcomes the challenge — and the chance to continue building community through music.

"There's nothing that approximates the experience of having hope and getting together with people and experiencing each other — hearing live music for real. That's how I built my career."



Red Letter Year is the latest CD from Grammy-winner Ani DiFranco.

Boy George goes to trial

PEOPLE Singer Boy George handcuffed a male escort to the wall of his London home after accusing him of hacking into his computer, a court heard yesterday at the start of his trial on false imprisonment charges.

The former Culture Club frontman, being tried under his real name George O'Dowd, made contact with 29-year-old Audun Carlsen over the Internet.

A London court heard how the meeting appeared to be going well until O'Dowd started to suspect Carlsen of hacking into his computer. But they parted on good terms and the singer paid the younger man $561. **REUTERS**

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	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	How to Deal ★★ (2003) Mandy Moore, Allison Janney.				Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	NCIS "Dagger" (N) (CC)		The Mentalist (N) (CC)		Without a Trace (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	The Biggest Loser: Families (N) (CC)				Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	How to Look Good Naked		Style by Jury	Style by Jury	How to Look Good Naked (N)		Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving		Dancing With the Stars (Season Finale) (Same-day Tape)				KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Candyman ★★ (1992, Horror) Virginia Madsen, Tony Todd.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	About-Money	Nova (N) (CC) (DVS)		Frontline Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez.			Independent Lens (N) (CC)	
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Last Resort" (N) (PA)		(:08) Fringe (N) (PA) (CC)		(:07) News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	Frontline Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez.			Summer Wine	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Nova (N) (CC) (DVS)	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	65 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	How to Deal ★★ (2003) Mandy Moore, Allison Janney.				KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	CW11 News at Ten (N) (CC)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) The Biggest Loser: Families (CC)			Will & Grace
news	502	390	26 NW	Cubers The Rubix's Cube. (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Cubers The Rubix's Cube.		National
	500	500	68 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	World Combat League (CC)		Hockey	Canucks TV	Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			In This Corner	UEFA Champions League Soccer BATE vs. Real Madrid.				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Which Way to... (N) (CC)		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Survivorman (CC)		Angry Planet
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Unique Whips	Hot Import	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Unique Whips
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol de España		Gol TV News		Hallo Bundesliga		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	60 TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Rick & Steve
	557	541	61 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	66 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Gardens	Recreat. Eden	World of Albert Kahn		Commanding Heights		Commanding Heights		Winning (CC)
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Dallas Cheerleaders		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	Dance	Video on Trial	MuchTopTens (CC)		Pimp My Ride	disBand	Technical Diff.	Video on Trial	Video on Trial
	600	564	29 H&G	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Pure Design	Style	Colin-Justin
	615	520	31 A&E	The Rookies	The Rookies	Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 "Blackout" (CC)		The Rookies
	628	584	32 SPKE	MANswers	MANswers	MANswers (N)	MANswers	CSI: NY "A Man a Mile"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34 TLC	Dr. G: Medical Examiner		My Shocking Story (CC)		Mystery Diagnosis (CC)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		Dwarfs: Steps
	616	522	39 SHO	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years		Testees (CC)	Trailer Park	The Shield (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Bravonews	Dick Dale	Law & Order "Patsy" (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		Fire on the Amazon ★ (1993) Sandra Bullock.		
	601	562	41 SLC	Tori & Dean: Home		Wedding SOS	In Laws	Rich Bride, Poor Bride (CC)		Tori & Dean: Home		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Dirty Jobs (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs (CC)		How It's Made
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "An Eye for an Eye"		Outlaw Bikers Billy Queen.		Ax Men "Reversal of Fortune"		NCIS "An Eye for an Eye"		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Rabbit Fall (N)	The Circuit	Stargate SG-1 "The Nox"		Lost "?" (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47 TBS	The Office	The Office	Frank TV (N)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Seinfeld	Frank Caliendo: All Over		Frank TV
	619	525	48 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Planet Soap	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
	603	561	62 FN	Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge Chocolate art.		The F Word		Chef School
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman	Flt.-Conchords	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	They Wait (2007) Jaime King. (CC) (DVS)			Charlie Wilson's War ★★★ (2007) (CC)			(:15) Planet Terror ★★★ (2007, Horror) (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	Paris Hilton's My New BFF (N)		MTV Live	After	Super Sweet	The Hills	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Vendetta Song (CC)		MythQuest "Isis and Osiris"		Bless-Father	On the Buses	Quantum Leap		Paid Program
	-	-	109 MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Officina Italian	Qui si Parla	In Germany	Euromaxx	Schauplatz	Euro. Journal	Patrol World

critics'corner

A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving

Who says you can't have popcorn and toast for Thanksgiving dinner? That's the menu when Snoopy is put in charge of making a feast for the Peanuts gang. But Peppermint Patty throws a fit and almost ruins the holiday with her attitude. Luckily, this annual classic is a Charlie Brown cartoon, which means everyone eventually finds something for which to be thankful. 8 PM on ABC

The Biggest Loser: Families

It's Thanksgiving week at the ranch, and contestants will be celebrating with turkey, football and very special guests. Professional football players Jerry Rice and Steve Young put the contestants through NFL-style drills while celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito shows the contestants how to make a healthy version of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. The contestants then receive special videos from home. 8 PM on JOY NBC

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Kenya Hunt
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Legal Seagal
Steven Seagal will take part in a reality series about his role as a police officer in Louisiana. **IMDB.COM**

IntelleVision makes amends

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER: Yesterday's column on CTV's recent woes ended up feeling like an argument at a dinner party, right down to the hurt feelings and regrets, and the half-hearted apology the next day after the wine hangover wore off.

An e-mail from the network is prompting the latter though, like the dinner party fracas, it probably won't satisfy everyone.

Susanne Boyce is CTV's president, creative, content and channels; Suzanne Boyd is the onetime editor of Flare, the fashion magazine. Writing in haste made me confuse one with the other, which gives you some idea of the mnemonic wasteland that too many years in the media can leave in their wake — mea culpa.

And the reason that three recently cancelled ABC shows (Eli Stone, Pushing Daisies, Dirty Sexy Money) don't show up on CTV's website is because they were on A Channel, the network's kid sister channel in the CTVglobemedia family tree, though in the end the difference simply boils down to separate columns in the media conglomerate's spreadsheets. Mea sorta culpa, in other words.

The e-mail pointed out that CTV's main competition, Global, has been suffering more from cancelled U.S. series (My Own Worst Enemy, The Ex List) and underperforming onetime hits (Heroes, Prison Break). Which is true, but it doesn't diminish the undeniable fact that network prime time is experiencing an annus horribilus, just after a couple of consecutive annus bringdowns, and as a prelude to what looks like an annus craptacular.

CTV still retains its No. 1 status, but as a recent Variety article pointed out, total viewership in Canada is down, and the network is sharing the 18-to-24 demographic neatly with Global, the competition, which still has House and Survivor.

CTV will probably keep the upper hand thanks to So You Think You Can Dance and Canadian Idol in its U.S. and Canadian iterations, but this is the only sort of TV where you can rely on strong, easily measurable morning-after ratings: Shows that play "live," instead of encouraging difficult-to-measure delayed DVR viewing or streaming views on network websites.

Another recent Variety article paints an even bleaker picture, comparing the networks to the Big Three auto manufacturers, finally reaping the whirlwind of a downturn that everyone saw coming.

Viewership in the 18-to-49 demographic has fallen a further 13 per cent this year so far, and the numbers that make a show a hit would have been mediocre a few years ago.

"How low can they go?" the Variety piece asks. "And at what point can the networks no longer monetize ratings that don't look much better than cable?"

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Tyra's show to slim down

Tyra Banks is facing a raft of cuts to her daily show, as U.S. networks feel the pinch of the global economic downturn. The Tyra Banks Show is to move to the CW network's afternoon slot and will see the production schedule cut to reduce costs. **IMDB.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Jolie pleased to be aging

BEAUTY Angelina Jolie only started to be happy with the way she looked when she became a mother because it gave her face more character, imdb.com reports.

The actress and her partner Brad Pitt have adopted Maddox, 7, Pax, 4, and Zahara, 3, and biological children Shiloh, 2, and baby twins Knox and Vivienne.

And it was only when she welcomed the twins that Jolie began to appreciate her appearance.

"I know this is going to sound corny, but I first became happy with the way I look when I became a mother. There's this idea that beauty is when someone does your hair and puts a lot of makeup on you and sticks your face on the cover of a magazine. Is that beauty?" she tells Britain's You magazine. Jolie is pleased she is getting older, because she is looking more like her late mother, Marcheline Bertrand, who died last year from cancer.

"You know what is beautiful? My mom. She was beautiful to me, and I look more like my mom as I get older," Jolie adds. "Something else comes out of you when you become a parent and, as you get older, you start to see more character in your face. Now, when I look at myself, I just see somebody at peace, and I see a mom, and I see my own relatives in my face — and that's a kind of beauty that exists for everybody and doesn't disappear."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Stewart putting school on hold

EDUCATION Actress Kristen Stewart has put her dreams of attending a prestigious American university on hold because she has "an authority issue," imdb.com reports.

The 18-year-old Twilight star has yet to finish her high school studies, since her acting career has skyrocketed with attention from the new vampire film.

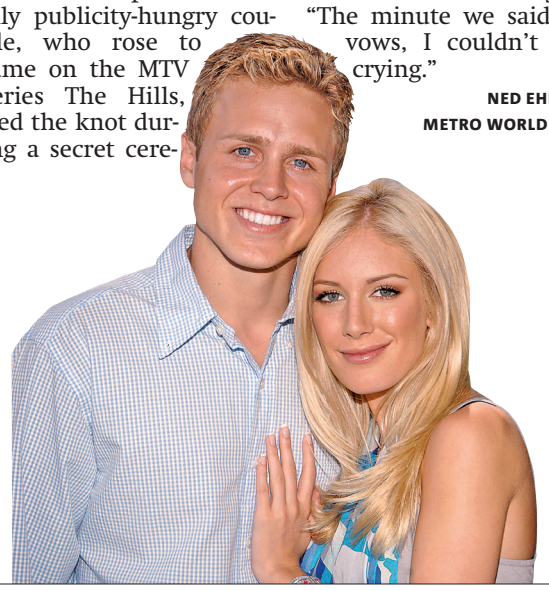
"It's sort of embarrassing but I'm finishing my last year of high school," she says. "It's been a bit of a rough road. I'm entirely self-indulgent and I put things off so I just took a little longer but it's OK. I have a bit of an authority issue. I've grown up saying, yes, I'm going to get to an Ivy League (private university). I definitely have a future in academics, it's just not a really conventional one. I don't know what happened but I'm going to do my own thing for a while."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heidi, Spencer elope

WEDDING Reality TV stars Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt have eloped. The usually publicity-hungry couple, who rose to fame on the MTV series The Hills, tied the knot during a secret ceremony in Mexico. Montag confirmed the news to PerezHilton.com, saying, "The minute we said our vows, I couldn't stop crying."

NED EHRBAR/ METRO WORLD NEWS



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Madonna trying to coax Spears back

RELIGION Madonna has offered Britney Spears full use of her New York home in a bid to tempt her back into her Kabbalah religion, according to reports.

The pop star is allegedly keen to get Spears back into studying the ancient faith, an off-shoot of Judaism, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Spears reportedly turned her back on Kabbalah after giving birth to second son Jayden James in 2006, when she declared, "I no longer study Kabbalah. My baby is my religion."

A source tells Britain's The Mail on Sunday, "Madonna is determined she can get Britney back into Kabbalah. She has offered her a suite of rooms at her apartment in New York and has told Britney she is her surrogate mother. Britney used to wear the red Kabbalah bracelet and read the books Madonna gave her and she is thinking about giving it another chance."

A spokesman for Spears has refused to dismiss the reports, saying, "Britney wouldn't really comment on that, it's just a case of wait and see what happens."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paltrow nets six-figure paycheque

SPOKESPERSON Actress Gwyneth Paltrow has scooped a six-figure paycheque after signing on as the spokesperson for American Express credit cards, imdb.com reports.

Paltrow will feature in a series of new advertisements to promote the financial firm, adding to her portfolio as the face of cosmetics giant Estee Lauder and fashion house Tod's.

The exact sum of money Paltrow will receive for the promotion has not been disclosed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson's shoe addiction

FASHION Kate Hudson owns "more than 400 pairs of shoes," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress reportedly finds it difficult to restrain herself when she sees footwear she wants to buy and consequently has a wardrobe full of pumps.

"I'm a total shopaholic! I've tried to stop, but I love clothes and fashion way too much! I probably own more than 400 pairs of shoes. That's a lot, isn't it?" Hudson says.

Hudson, who has a four-year-old son, Ryder, with ex-husband Chris Robinson, also revealed she thinks it is unfair when people think a woman's sexiness departs when she becomes a mother.

"Hey, single moms can still be sexy!" she adds. "You just do the best you can. I think any mother, working or not, should take a little time out every day to be themselves."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fox doesn't think of herself as foxy

BEAUTY Transformers star Megan Fox, 22, was recently voted Sexiest Woman in the World by FHM magazine. But she is unconvinced by the praise. "I don't think I'm a sexy, beautiful woman," Fox tells GQ magazine. "I look like Ted Nugent in a black wig."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wood moves on to Gordon-Levitt?

RELATIONSHIPS Actress Evan Rachel Wood has sparked reports she's moved on from her romance with rocker Marilyn Manson after she was spotted in the arms of actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt in Los Angeles, imdb.com reports.

Wood and Gordon-Levitt appeared together recently at the Hamilton Behind the Camera Awards. According to the National Enquirer, Wood has ignited a new love affair.

"This thing with Joseph has come out of nowhere," a source says.

Manson, 39, and Wood, 21, began dating in December 2006. They announced their breakup earlier this month.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Moss fuming after cancellation

GOSSIP Supermodel Kate Moss was left fuming this past week after flying in to New York for a modelling job — only to discover the shoot had been cancelled at the last minute, imdb.com reports.

Moss arrived at JFK airport last week when she was told the job for fashion monthly W magazine had been scrapped. "She wasn't very happy at all," a source says.

W magazine editors were reportedly charged with the $11,840 US bill for Moss' first-class flights.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network 20 YEARS
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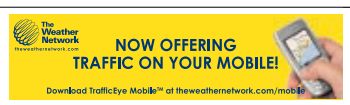
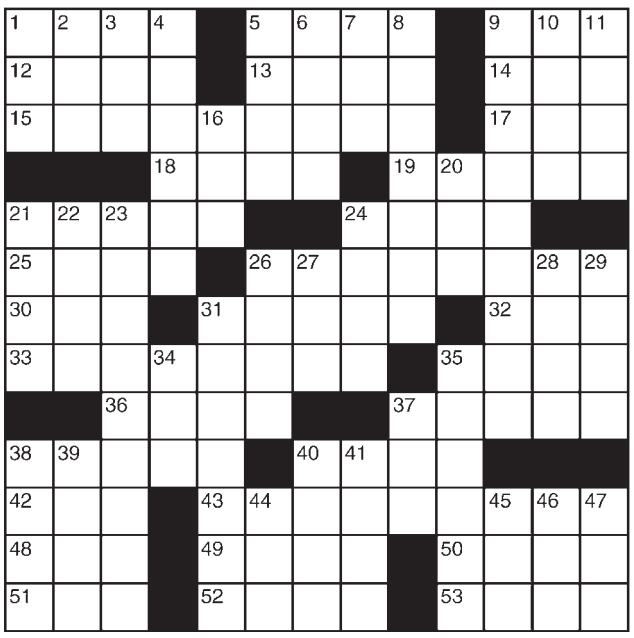
Today Rain 9°/ 2° (70%)
Wednesday Sunny 5° / 0°
Thursday Partly cloudy 5° / 2°



For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Attempt, in basketball
5 Condo, for instance
9 Parcel of land
12 Franc replacement
13 Wounded
14 Commotion
15 Site maintainer
17 Affirmative action?
18 Grow weary
19 Large
21 Shaving tool
24 Elite alternative
25 Teensy bit
26 Sit-ins and such
30 Anderson's "High —"
31 Glistened
32 Gratuity
33 Catching sight of
35 Scoff
36 MPs' quarry
37 Actress Halle
38 Bust
40 Shopper's need
42 Last (Abbr.)
43 White gypsum
48 "A pox upon thee!"
49 Honeycomb compartment
50 Vicinity
51 Supporting
52 Gopher's hideout
53 Create

Crossword down

1 Stitch
2 Coloration
3 Sphere
4 Long, narrow drum
5 "Back in the —"
6 Staff member?
7 Rage
8 Wood eater
9 York adversary
10 Smell
11 — list (agenda)
16 Melody
20 Blackjack part
21 "Phooey!"
22 On
23 Persian prophet
24 Vintage video game
26 Dr. McGraw
27 Director Howard
28 Layer
29 Agile
31 Belly
34 Pair
35 Stuff tossed overboard
37 Support system?
38 Enthusiast
39 Hodgepodge
40 Shout
41 Skilled
44 Zodiac cat
45 La-la lead-in
46 "A mouse!"
47 "Norma —"

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3		6		4		5	
			9		7			
5		1				4		6
		2	4		6	7		
9								2
		8	7		2	3		
8		6				5		7
			8		5			
	2		1		9		3	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

L	O	C	H	■	D	D	T	■	R	O	B	E
S	C	R	U	T	I	N	Y	■	E	Y	E	D
D	A	Y	D	R	E	A	M	■	M	E	N	D
■	■	■	D	O	T	■	P	I	A	Z	Z	A
H	O	T	L	Y	■	R	A	C	K	■	■	■
O	B	O	E	■	S	U	N	B	E	A	M	■
P	I	G	■	S	T	R	U	M	■	F	A	D
■	T	A	G	T	E	A	M	■	W	A	N	E
■	■	■	H	E	A	L	■	S	H	R	E	W
S	H	T	E	T	L	■	D	U	O	■	■	■
P	O	R	T	■	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M
A	L	I	T	■	N	E	C	K	L	A	C	E
M	E	M	O	■	G	E	O	■	S	T	E	W

3	9	4	1	8	7	2	6	5
8	1	2	4	6	5	9	7	3
7	6	5	9	3	2	8	4	1
6	2	9	5	4	1	7	3	8
4	7	1	8	9	3	6	5	2
5	3	8	2	7	6	1	9	4
9	4	3	7	1	8	5	2	6
1	5	6	3	2	9	4	8	7
2	8	7	6	5	4	3	1	9

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Rice Cakes with Mushroom-Walnut Sauce

CAKE INGREDIENTS:
1/2 cup (125 mL) uncooked long-grain rice
1/4 cup (50 mL) finely chopped yellow onion
1/4 cup (50 mL) finely chopped green, red or yellow pepper
1/4 cup (50 mL) seasons fine dry bread crumbs
1 large egg, lightly beaten
1/8 tsp (0.5 mL) ground cayenne pepper
2 tbsp (25 mL) vegetable oil

SAUCE:
1 tbsp (15 mL) butter or margarine
1 cup (250 mL) sliced fresh mushrooms
1/4 cup (50 mL) finely sliced scallions with tops
2 tbsp (25 mL) all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
1/8 tsp (0.5 mL) black pepper
1 cup (250 mL) low-sodium beef broth
1/4 cup (50 mL) chopped walnuts, toasted

METHOD:
1. For rice cakes, in a medium-sized pot, cook rice according to package directions, omitting butter. Stir in onion, green pepper, bread crumbs, egg and ground cayenne. Shape mixture into 4 patties. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour.
2. In a non-stick skillet, heat oil over moderate heat. Cook patties 3 minutes per side or until golden. Transfer patties to a platter and keep warm.
3. For sauce, in a medium-sized pot, melt butter over moderate heat. Add mushrooms and scallions; cook 3 minutes. Stir in flour, salt and black pepper. Cook 1 minute. Stir in beef broth. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until thickened. Stir in walnuts. Serve sauce over patties. **SERVES 2**

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Chatting with a special person is the highlight of the day. Too much activity may create dissension. You have a date with destiny.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't shy away from the good times. An old friend forgives all mistakes. Push comes to shove in a relationship issue.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Scandalous things will happen. It won't be easy to communicate with an important person. Decency and humility result in a good conscience.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Accept responsibility for your harsh words. Help somebody to believe in miracles. A free spirit reveals the best of human nature.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Share your dreams with a youthful person. A powerful romantic attraction is growing. An obstinate man gets feisty at work.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Make someone go wild with joy. A relative makes a mysterious remark. A younger person will give good advice.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll be in the right place right on time. A former friend apologizes for a hasty farewell. Give generously to a poverty-stricken person.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't fall for a con artist. A dull ache reminds you of a defunct relationship. Resolve to avoid inconsiderate people.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Be strong in the face of someone's denial. Take care of business as soon as possible. Good news is received.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Relationship expectations need to be discussed. Don't complain about a loss of independence. A relative makes an offensive suggestion.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
It's too late to turn away from a plan now. Take someone's breath away with a true story. Trust that your finances will recover.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Take the honourable way out of a difficult situation. Don't settle for second best. Noise problems will be aggravating.

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This day in history

NOV. 25, 1703: The Great Storm of 1703, the greatest windstorm ever recorded in the southern part of Great Britain, reaches its peak intensity which it maintains through Nov. 27. Winds gust up to 120 mph, and 9,000 people perish in the mighty gale.
NOV. 25, 1839: A cyclone slams India with high winds and a 40-foot storm surge, destroying the port city of Coringa (never to be entirely rebuilt again). The wave sweeps inland, taking with it 20,000 ships and thousands of people. An estimated 300,000 died.
NOV. 25, 1867: Alfred Nobel patents dynamite.
NOV. 25, 1963: U.S. President John F. Kennedy is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

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[1]You will earn 1% bonus interest on top of our High Rate Savings Account interest rate on any new monies deposited into your High Rate Savings Account (up to $500,000) during the promotional period of November 24, 2008 to March 16, 2009 from the day new monies are deposited. This promotion may be amended, extended or cancelled at the sole discretion of HSBC at any time, without prior notice. [2]Specific terms and conditions apply. The 1% bonus interest will be applicable on any new monies transferred in from your High Rate Savings Account to your High Rate TFSA for the remainder of the Promotional Period. Please see your local HSBC branch for details, visit hsbc.ca/taxfree or call 1-888-310-4722. This promotion may be amended, extended or cancelled at the sole discretion of HSBC at any time, without prior notice.